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# *The history of the Romanian folk costume*





The Romanian folk costume has its roots in the dress of the Dacian, Getae and Thracian ancestors and resembles that of other peoples in the Balkan Peninsula. The oldest iconographic confession of the way people in the Romanian area dressed was discovered in the Craiova area, in the form of ceramic figurines dating from the Neolithic (10,000-4,500 BC), from the Stone Age. On these statuettes there are drawings of the cut of the basic pieces: the shirt, the *catrința*, the tassel cap.



Alexandru Odobescu, the author of a treatise on the history of archeology, remarks, in the middle of the 19th century, that there are many similarities between the Romanian folk costume and that of the Dacians, as he is represented on Trajan's Column in Rome. In those performances, the long-sleeved shirt was tucked in the middle and notched at the bottom on both sides, the strings and heels covered the legs, and the *saris* hung over the shoulders. The women were portrayed wearing veils similar to the Romanian handkerchiefs. Later, in a document discovered in stone in the Adamclisi area, we find the wrinkled shirt around his neck and the photo.





Later, in the Bronze Age, archeological evidence attests to the necklaces worn on the necks and the seams on the clothes. The cloth was sewn by the village elders in the house during the war of weaving. From the 20th century onwards, fine canvases appeared, and after the 1940s, the marquis, an industrial canvas.



***The evolution of the  
Romanian folk costume***





**In the evolution of the Romanian folk costume, there are three stages:**

- **The first stage - there were differences between people living in Romania and neighboring territories. There are also the first differences in motifs and styles between areas of the country, but also different colors or patterns depending on age or social status;**
- **The second stage - takes place with economic development and the industrial revolution. The materials began to be created industrially and not at home. The folk costume was still woven in the house, but the materials were easier to find. During the same period, the first pieces with urban influence appeared, and an example in this sense is the replacement of the white cloth with the naframa;**
- **The third stage - the folk costume began to be replaced by the common clothes, called "city" and to be worn in the village only occasionally (at church, wedding, baptism, etc.). Today, the folk costume is still found mainly to promote the tradition in regional events or holidays specific to certain areas.**



**The variety of the  
Romanian folk costume  
and the pieces**





Even if, at the beginning, the raw materials were produced in the peasant households, and the technique was a modest one, the models made were of an amazing artistic mastery. Ornaments and embroideries of colorful yarns in vegetable colors predominated



Traditional materials such as cotton, flax, hemp, borangic (at least for the last 200 years) and wool were also used. The shirts were made of linen, hemp, or cotton, woven in two strands, and the strands were cut in two or four strands. In general, the thick thread was used in Transylvania and Moldova, while in areas such as Oltenia, Dobrogea or Muntenia, the thread was thin and had to be twisted.





The folk costume was different from one region to another, but also within the same area. The differences depended on profession, occasion, season, sex, and age. For example, the pieces used for field work were simple, without ornaments. For women, the major difference was the cooking of the head, in order to distinguish young women from married women.



Costume Populare Românești.  
34 Regiune: CÂMPIA de VEST. Zona: INEU. (Bihor)



Costume Populare Românești,  
TRANSILVANIA. Zona: CLUJ (Câmpia Clujului)



84 Rădăuți



COSTUME POPULARE DIN ZONA BOTOȘANI

Usually, the women's folk costume consisted of a shirt, a skirt and a piece from the waist down (which varied from one region to another). Depending on the area, it was called "catrință", "vălnic", "opreg" or "fotă" and was woven from wool with simpler or more complex ornaments, depending on the occasion. The head of the head consisted of a cloth, a napkin, an onion, or a wreath. Regardless of the material used (linen, hemp, wool), white predominated.



Romanian folk costume from Neamt region / neighbor with Iași



Costume Populare Românești,  
87 Regiune: MOLDOVA. Zona: IAȘI.



Costume populare  
Banat, zona Timiș

**The men's folk costume, by comparison, was much simpler. The port consisted of a long shirt, in the east and south of the country, and a little shorter, but wider, in the west and north, cut from cloth or woven cloth in the house. The leather belt and chimera were placed over the shirt. In the cold season, a cloth coat with beautiful ornaments or leather and chest coats was placed over the waist. Also in winter or in the mountains, the sarica or the hat were worn, with motives reminiscent of the Dacian dress.**

**The ornaments were simple and inspired by nature: birds, animals, flowers. In folk costumes, there was a balance in color, and the sober colors were harmoniously combined with shades of red, dark brown, blue, green and purple. In general, young women wore brightly colored suits, men wore at most 2-3 colors, and the elderly wore dark outfits.**

*Thank you*

